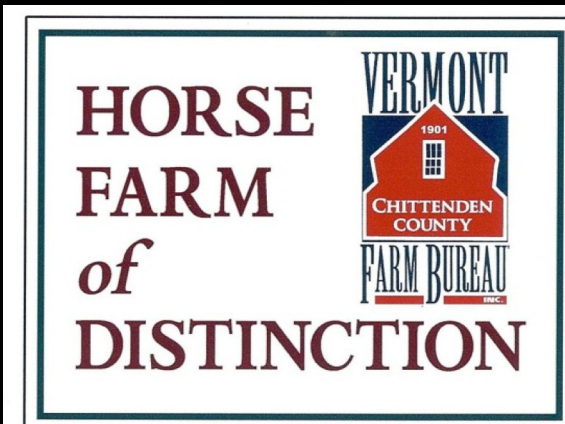


CHITTENDEN COUNTY FARM BUREAU HORSE FARM OF DISTINCTION PROGRAM

The Chittenden County Farm Bureau's "Horse Farm of Distinction Program" was established to recognize and present to the public those Vermont farmers who set high standards and achieve a level of excellence in all aspects of equine activity.

The Farm Bureau intends that the "Horse Farm of Distinction Program" be known as a prestigious award and that those who achieve it are recognized by their community and their state. Further, it is our intent that this achievement enhances the positive image and visibility of the Vermont horse industry.

Qualified equine professionals will visit horse farms enrolled in the program and it is in our hope that their evaluations will be beneficial to the farm's operation. All evaluations will be confidential and the property of the Chittenden County Farm Bureau not to be used for any other purpose. The program has been developed and is overseen by the Equine Advisory Committee of the Chittenden County Vermont Farm Bureau.



HORSE FARMS OF DISTINCTION

The Chittenden County Farm Bureau's "Horse Farm of Distinction" is an annual award given to exceptional farms. It is awarded to horse farms which have been judged on a number of criteria within the categories of horse health, farm management, and public standards. Farms which apply for and achieve the status of "Horse Farm of Distinction" may use the title for promotions and advertising throughout the award year. Recipients will receive a distinctive SIGN that should be mounted for public display during the year of the program and is to be used only by the award winner. The sign will remain the property of the Chittenden County Farm Bureau. Horse Farms of Distinction will be reevaluated on a bi-annual basis and will automatically be reinstated if all judging criteria remain in compliance.

GENERAL JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Must engage in equine activities as outlined in the definition of farming.
 - a. 10VSA Section 6001(22)(G), the raising, feeding, or management of four or more equines owned or boarded by the farmer, including training, showing, and instruction and lessons in riding, training, and management of equines.
 2. Will be judged on the following:
 - a. Safe and secure housing and fencing for equines including riding surfaces.
 - b. Pasture management.
 - c. Farm management covering maintenance, equipment, nutrition, veterinary care and handling.
 - d. Control of pests and vermin.
 - e. Fire protection and prevention.
 - f. Curb Appeal – overall general appearance of farm and facilities.
 3. Must demonstrate a relationship with the community, i.e. hold open houses, clinics, welcome visitors, or interact with local schools.
 4. Three reference letters (e.g. Veterinarian, boarder, client, etc.) should either accompany the application or be mailed/emailed separately (received by deadline).
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CHITTENDEN COUNTY FARM BUREAU HORSE FARM OF DISTINCTION

APPLICATION---

I hereby apply for the Chittenden County Farm Bureau "2016 Horse Farm of Distinction Program" contained herein. I understand that the judges will contact me to schedule visits at their convenience. The award is granted for the year beginning January 1, 20___. Evaluations will begin on or after July 1, 20___. Visits will follow. Award will be recognized at the County Annual Meeting in September and the VT Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting in November. Applicant does not have to be a member of the Farm Bureau but is welcome to join.

FARM NAME _____

NAME _____
_____ A

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ C

CELL _____ E

mail _____

Signature of Owner/Manager

PI

Please provide three reference letters (e.g. Vet, Boarder, Client, etc.) from the horse community with your application.

Please address the following questions in detail on a separate sheet of paper:

1. What type of equine business do you run?
2. How many equines do you house?
3. How many acres are you farming?
4. What types of community service activities are conducted at your facilities?

JUDGES EVALUATION SHEET

The following will be graded with a score of 1 to 10, with 1 being inadequate and 10 meaning excellent.

Housing: Barn:

- a. Repair and maintenance
- b. Light
- c. Air flow
- d. Condition of stalls
- e. Water supply and availability
- f. Safety

Fencing:

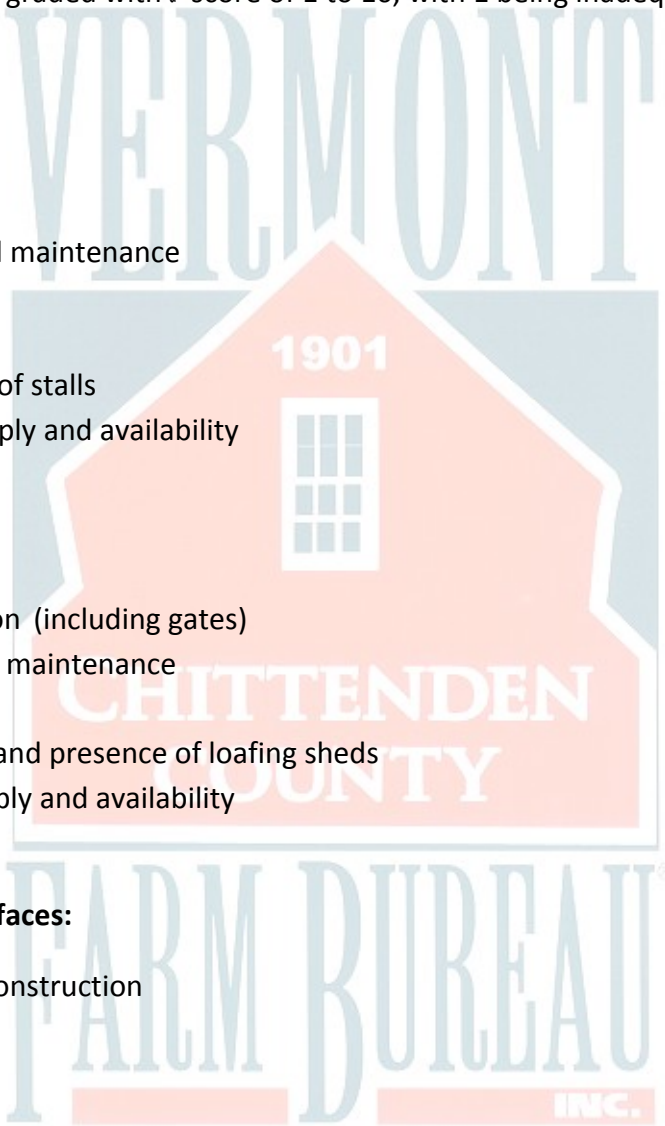
- a. Construction (including gates)
- b. Repair and maintenance
- c. Layout
- d. Condition and presence of loafing sheds
- e. Water supply and availability
- f. Safety

Riding Rings and Surfaces:

- a. Size and construction
- b. Footing
- c. Safety

Pasture Management:

- a. Acreage per horse
- b. Weed Control
- c. Condition of forage
- d. Fertilization and rotation program



Manure Management:

- a. Disposal
- b. Storage

Farm Management:

- a. Personnel
- b. Condition and repair of equipment
- c. Veterinary care – routine and emergency
- d. Feed and feeding – program of nutrition
- e. Feed storage and supply
- f. Handling, experience and skill level
- g. Overall health, appearance, and well-being of animals

Control of Pests and Vermin:

- a. Fly control
- b. Rodent control
- c. Cleanliness

Fire Protection and Prevention:

- a. Presence of Fire Extinguishers
- b. Hay Storage and handling
- c. Evacuation plan

Curb Appeal

- a. Overall appearance of Farm and buildings
- b. Landscaping
- c. Suitability as an equine facility

Relationship with the Community:

- a. Open houses held
- b. Clinics held
- c. Availability to visitors
- d. Interaction with local schools and youth groups, if any

